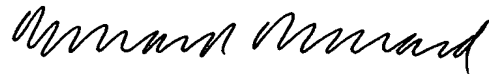


This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to indicate the relationship of the subject U.S. national application to previously filed applications as required under 37 C.F.R.

1.78. The amendments to the claims delete multiple dependencies and place the claims in somewhat better form for examination. With the entry of the foregoing amendments, the application is believed to be in condition for examination and allowance. Consideration of the claims, leading to their allowance and passage of the application to issuance, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to water soluble branched block copolymers made of quaternary ammonium compounds and polyalkylenglycoles, whereby the molecular building blocks containing the quaternary ammonium groups form skeletons which are linked by the polyalkylenglycole blocks in a loose manner.